

# **CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION**

## ***RETREAT MINUTES***

**September 9, 2002  
Anderson Park Adair House**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Jill Schmidt, Una McAlinden, Rebecca LaBrunerie, Heidi Houghton, Joe Adams, Cara Byrne, Kay Tarapolsi, Regina Riley

**STAFF PRESENT:** Melna Skillingstead, Arts Commission Administrator; Sandra Bettencourt, Recreation Program Manager; Tom Trueblood, Recreation Division Manager

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### **AGENDA**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Jill Schmidt called to order the *Retreat Meeting* of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 6:30 p.m. at Anderson Park Adair House.

#### **II. PREFERRED FUTURING WITH FACILITATOR ANN STILLWATER**

Schmidt introduced facilitator Ann Stillwater. She guided Commissioners through the following steps to their Preferred Futuring, a method that “brings the past forward to the future and makes the present a creative moment.”

##### **A. KEY EVENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Melna Skillingstead presented a chart of historical Arts Commission dates and accomplishments beginning with the Commission’s inception. Commissioners reviewed the items and added to the list.

##### **B. PROUDS AND SORRIES**

Stillwater handed out a list of “Prouds and Sorries” that had been e-mailed to her by Commissioners. In groups of two to three, Commissioners took five minutes to write down any additional accomplishments they were proud of, as well as regrets.

Stillwater explained that to create a Preferred Future is to:

- 1) identify accomplishments and dissatisfactions,
- 2) know conceptually what ideas have been guiding the Commission to date, and

3) add or subtract what will enhance from the Preferred Futuring.

### C. VALUES AND BELIEFS

Commissioners took five minutes to reflect on and record where they have been and where they would like to be. In groups of two to three, they listed in columns those values and beliefs that have influenced the Commission in the past, and what would influence in the future. Commissioners read aloud their consolidated data:

Schmidt, Skillingstead, and Riley:

<i>PAST</i>	<i>FUTURE</i>
Commitment to bring all forms of art to the community	
Commitment to supporting arts groups, artists, and patrons through:	
1. Grant funding	
2. <i>Focus</i> magazine	
3. Assistance groups through promotion	
4. Co-sponsorships	
5. Awards	
6. Recognition	
	RAC leader in community
	Make arts an experience for children
	Communication
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Toot horn” of accomplishments to City Council; ask for funding</li> <li>• Marketing and promotions</li> </ul>

Houghton, Adams, and McAlinden:

<i>PAST</i>	<i>FUTURE</i>
City Council perception that arts are visual arts only	Education of community is key (families as a whole)
Pay lip service to arts without tax dollar commitment	Redmond is center of tech universe
Things done are done well with quality	Quality continued
Money directed projects	Growth
Staff wants RAC too careful—conventional	Share resources and responsibility for success
Compartmentalized	Collaboration with RAC, City, state, county, businesses
Restricted by staff resources	

LaBrunerie, Byrne, Tarapolsi:

<i><b>PAST</b></i>	<i><b>FUTURE</b></i>
Create the Commission	Go to the next level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships</li> <li>• Innovations (dream big)</li> <li>• Bigger budget</li> <li>• Get centralized</li> <li>• collaboration</li> </ul>
Value to have RAC doing variety of jobs	Bigger budget
Need for arts administrator and resources	Bigger awareness of community
Support artists	Bigger business involvement
Commitment of community and citizens to create RAC	Place Redmond somewhere between Santa Fe and Wenatchee!
Shared values with community	Agree on 1-3 main projects or objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buy into it</li> <li>• Map it out</li> <li>• Agree that is it long term</li> <li>• Monthly meeting check in to see where in process of goal</li> </ul>
Historical value of per capital tax funding	Institutions run by themselves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor Sculpture Garden</li> <li>• Performing Arts Series</li> <li>• Arts Education</li> </ul>
Only can do what can afford	
Entrusted with honor of giving/choosing art for the community	

Commissioners placed stickers by items that they believed were most important and would want to see carried forward. Some of these values included community collaboration, communication, awareness, leaders in the community, agree on 1-3 projects, having a bigger budget, and bigger community awareness.

#### **D. EVENTS, DEVELOPMENTS, AND TRENDS IN MOVING FORWARD**

In an open forum using a flipchart, Stillwater asked Commissioners to list items in the environment that impact the Commission's mission statement, whether they are driving or restraining.

<i><b>DRIVING</b></i>	<i><b>RESTRAINING</b></i>
Growth in population	Economy/City's budget (\$1.25 per capita unlikely to raise)
Demographic changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in population</li> <li>• Annexation</li> <li>• Less children</li> </ul>	Two audiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day – working</li> <li>• Evening - residents</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population gets older (30s-40s)</li> <li>• Culturally diverse</li> </ul>	
Introduction of art testing at the state level	Transient population: less connection with community
Media exposure: <i>Focus</i> magazine, <i>Redmond Reporter</i> , RCTV	Less construction projects in the City reduces percent for art
More connections with businesses	Reduced amount of grant funds, e.g., from King County and state level
Bicycle City: could this work for RAC	Competition for grants from surrounding cities: Kirkland, Seattle, Tacoma
At the Transportation Community Focus Group, people wanted art	Lack of awareness of residents
City Council becoming more involved in RAC purpose/mission	Media doesn't reach all in the right way
Brochures from RAC; marketing	Limited artist organizations
More volunteer participation by Commissioners to follow through hands-on to move programs forward	Few arts advocates at state level
Partnerships with Public Works (90 <sup>th</sup> Street Bridge)	Artists not being able to afford to live here
More arts organizations than there were before RAC came to the community	No venues/galleries here (zoning issues)
	Not a community center-friendly downtown
	No economic development
	No economic development corporation to hand-pick businesses to come into the city to provide jobs and economic growth (Redmond needs this and RAC could be part of it)
	Slow growth policies
	Still no increase in staff to support RAC programs/activities
	Internal percentages

<b><i>COULD BE BOTH DRIVING AND RESTRAINING</i></b>	<b><i>NOT SURE</i></b>
Changes brought by governance study	

Based on the above information, Stillwater summarized those items that restrain RAC from moving forward:

- Staff limitations and financial times, (limited budget, limited staff)
- City, county, state grants
- Slow growth policy

- Multiple audiences, potential audiences could be transient
- Percentages smaller
- Competition from other places
- Residents' awareness
- Media opportunities
- Not a driver/pedestrian friendly place
- Physical and economical environments not cooperating

Stillwater summarized those items that help RAC reach their mission:

- Some population growth
- Older population
- Art testing
- Funding for arts curriculum project
- Funding with other departments
- New opportunities: *Redmond Reporter*, collaborations with businesses
- City Council is getting educated through efforts
- Build on the strong existing Commission

## **E. CREATING A PREFERRED FUTURE**

Stillwater explained that a preferred future is a vision statement, which in a longer statement consists of specific, detailed images of the future they desire to create. Commissioners grouped to generate their vision of what they would like to see in Redmond in the next 5-7 years.

Schmidt, Skillingstead, Riley:

1. Artist/writers studios at ORSCC or the old Gossard Lumber building
2. Outdoor performance opportunities (i.e. bandshell, stage) for performing arts, Derby Days, Redmond Lights
3. Pedestrian, bicycle, jogger-friendly downtown with eastside co-op/fine art galleries
4. Literary arts performances and publications
5. More staff to support
6. Redmond Market to involve performing arts
7. More interesting architecture, murals, and facades
8. Art outside the box
9. Bicycle art around the City
10. Fountains with sculptures
11. More arts organizations
12. More artists in residence
13. Arts center
14. More public art in downtown, open spaces, and parks
15. More use of high school theatre venue
16. Integrated visual arts curriculum at all grades in LWSD

17. More senior participation
18. More performing arts

Houghton, Adams, McAlinden:

1. Children learning many things through arts in schools
  - Artists in schools, mentoring teachers
  - Test scores and self-esteem high in schools
  - Teachers attending seminars/art institutes on Eastside
2. Municipal Campus: huge crowds, art gallery, and performance space
3. Community Center is an arts center with artist studios and gallery
4. Consortium of arts organization on eastside
5. Pods of activities with pedestrian-friendly transport (i.e. strolling)
6. Parade accolades: RAC visually present
7. Lights along Sammamish River Trail
8. Design elements in utility boxes, light standards, manhole covers, city vehicles, traffic calming, sewers to streams, bus shelters, fountains
9. Gateway to define entrance into Redmond
10. Community Centers in every neighborhood
11. Largest Farmers Market on eastside with buskars and artists selling wares

LaBrunerie, Byrne, Tarapolsi:

1. Art space in Municipal Campus (indoor/outdoor)
2. Trees/plants in sculpture garden
3. Downtown core changed
  - Galleries
  - Walking spaces (linking art spaces)
  - Multi-use space
4. High school manages Arts Parks/Winter series as part of graduation requirement for arts curriculum
5. Coalition of arts organizations/eastside organizations
6. Arts Festival Day
7. Redmond art museum (full-time director)
8. Teen Center with a music media lab
9. Redmond Arts Foundation
10. Conference center/performance center
11. Redmond-managed Marymoor Park
12. Percent for arts has funded large projects
13. Riverwalk has gallery/studios or Redmond Community Center
14. Performance Center (Shakespeare in the park)
15. Speakers corner (poetry reading)
16. Sculpture in front of businesses

The following most important areas were determined by Commissioners highlighting items on the three lists with stickers:

- Art spaces: torpedo factory concept, galleries, studios
- Parade activities
- Design elements: arts in utilities
- Municipal Campus performance space: outside bandshell or stage for performing arts
- More staff to support activities

## **F. MOVING INTO ACTION**

To move the vision (images) into action, Stillwater condensed the above visionary concepts into four groups and asked Commissioners to apply criteria to these images as a framework for their goals:

1. Space (artist and performance)
2. Arts in utilities
3. Parade activities (marketing/communication)
4. Staff: arts foundation and funding

She asked Commissioners to evaluate the alignment of these four with their “values and beliefs” lists, as well as to determine if they are within or without the restraints or driving forces. Commissioners moved into groups again, taking the first above three items, applying criteria to see if the image sustains itself.

## **G. NEXT STEPS**

Commissioners were given the following direction to move from images to action:

1. Finalize working groups on images into goals
2. Each group brings goals/objective-type statement to next meeting (e-mail in between)
3. RAC evaluate according to environment
4. Stillwater will forward copies of their charts (which she will re-work)

Commissioners decided they would need to evaluate the Commission’s current processes and committees. The Nexus Committee suggested that in the October and November RAC meetings, Commissioners could devote 20 minutes to discuss the ideas and how they are working, and follow up with a February retreat.

Commissioners concurred instead to meet in one month at another session to take the next step in the visioning process. At the 9/12/02 regular RAC meeting, they will choose a date and discuss whether or not a facilitator would be needed.

## **III. ADJOURNMENT**

The retreat meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Retreat minutes prepared by Recording Secretary: Pam Maybee

**NEXT REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION *TELEVISED* MEETING:**  
**September 12, 2002**  
**Public Safety Building, Council Chambers**  
**7:00 p.m.**